Thus great with child to speak, and
helpless in my throes.
Biting *my* tongue and pen, beating
myself for spite
* Fool,' said my Muse to me,[c] look in thy
heart and wnte '

Tempus adest plausus, aurea pompa vemt,
so ends the scene of
idiots, and enter Astrophel in pomp

$th June THE TAKING OF GUINGCAMP

From Brittany it is reported that Sir John Norns hath taken Guingcamp, a town very strongly fortified, with ditches and walls, and protected on one side with marshes

The General having found that part of the town which was fittest for a breach, made a show on the contrary part, causing trenches to be dug at the south side, and passages to be made through the old houses, even up to the counterscarp itself A long trench was likewise made on the east side of the town, with a platform of earth in the middle as if the cannon should have been placed there In the meantime great labour was used in making a mine near to the intended breach, and in prepanng passages and emplacements for the cannon This was performed with such zeal that on the 2Oth May the artillery was brought down to the Jacopins* cloister, and there set up within less than a hundred paces of the wall In this action the General exposed himself unceasingly

On 21st May the battery began, and though it continued all day, yet by reason of the few pieces of artillery not able to make sufficient battery, the day's work brought no further effect than the crushing of two flankers and the beating down of the parapet so that but a very small breach was made, which was repaired continually by the soldiers and inhabitants within the town, who maintained the rampart with featherbeds, horse

dung, and bags of earth almost to the lowest part of their parapet

Very early the next day the battery began again, and continued until two or three in the afternoon, by which time the breach seemed very fair Whereupon the French urged hotly to an assault and so importuned the Prince de Dombes that he consented Sir John was not in favour of an immediate assault, as he learned from a sergeant, whom he had sent forward to examine the breach, that the approach was very steep, sliding,